

Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, February 18, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY MONROE.

New Orleans, February 18, 1815. "6 oclock P M"

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your duplicate of the 10th of Dec[e]mber last (marked by express) this moment to hand, and which is said to have been intrusted to the care of Doctor couzins, but without the enclosure therein alluded to, Major Fannin I have not heard of, He is *like the supply of arms* , will arive when the danger is past. I have been much surprised, in not having heard of the recpt of my various communications made to your department, whilst at mobile, and since my arival. I regret this the more, as I find you have not been advised of the precautionary measures I had adopted for the defence of this District. I was apprised as I advised you from Mobile at an early day of the contemplated invasion of this country by the united forces of Britain and Spain, and if the latter power, has not furnished her quota of Troops, it is not for the want of her good wishes, as you will discover from the letter forwarded by this days mail.

I trust Sir you will see that I have made the most *vigorous* defence that was Possible with my feeble means, and the arms in my possession. It is a fact, that when the enemy landed I had not a flint, except what I procured from the Baratarians, and it is to be hoped, as this section of the union is viewed by the Goverment of great importance, the means for its defence will be ample. I made a requisition in last Sept. for 20 ps. of ordinance to 32 and to 24, to reinstate those I borrowed from the navy, and strange to tell, they have not arived, it is true, the agent at Pittsburgh acknowledges the recpt of the requisition, and that

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he is directed to forward them. Still they have not arrived, the multiplied Batteries on the different B[a]yous require a great many peaces, and more than our arsenals can furnish.

It is true Mobile in Point of wealth is a trifling object with the British compared with this city, but in Point of harassing us and stirring up the Indians to hostility against us it is all important, and if once Possessed by them and seconded by Spain It will cost much blood and treasure to regain it—regained tho it must, or the enemy menace this country constantly, and in fact a real military man, with a full knowledge of the geography of that and this country, would first possess himself of that point, draw to his standard the Indians, advance by the way of Fort St Stephens, and march direct to the walnut Hills—and by a strong establishment there, and being able to forage on the country, he could support himself, cut off all supplies from above and make this country an easy conquest.

I trust Sir that the arrangements I have made will save not only this but Mobile also. I trust Sir it will be ultimately discovered, that I have taken the best view of this country Possible and have made the best arrangements for the Defence of the District, that the means in my hands would admit—and altho the ships of war are now before Mobile Point and her transports, between Horn Island and Passagola—if the East Tennessee troops and Georgians are up, Mobile is safe—if the force that defends it is well directed, of which I have no doubt. I have heretofore brought to your view that the time of service of General Coffee's Brigade expires 27 and 28 of next month, the first requisition from Tennessee 2500—now at Mobile also 27 and 28th next month Genl Carrolls Division and the Kentucky troops the 10th of May. The enemy is on our coast and it is necessary if I am expected to *overwhelm* the enemy I should have an overwhelming force to do it with, not on paper but in reality. These Troops must be discharged at the expiration of their time and I must ask where is the Troops to relieve them and to overwhelm the enemy. resp^{tl}